

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 – 18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A knee protecting airbag device for a vehicle, wherein the vehicle has a passenger compartment and a panel located at the front of the passenger compartment, and wherein the airbag device comprises:

a folded airbag;

a case that houses the airbag, the case being formed in a rectangular box shape, wherein the case has an opening through which the airbag may protrude when inflated, and wherein the opening opens in a rectangular shape arranged in a longitudinal direction along the left-right direction;

an airbag cover, wherein the airbag cover includes:

a door, wherein the door covers the opening of the case, the door opening along the upper-lower direction; and

a general portion, which is located around the door;

a breakaway portion arranged around the door, the breakaway portion being broken to open the door when the airbag is expanded;

fasteners for attaching the airbag cover to the case, the fasteners being arranged on the upper and lower peripheries of the opening along the left-right direction, wherein the fasteners are constructed to permit the airbag cover to move slightly with respect to the case; and

fixing members that fix the airbag cover to the panel, each of the fixing members being located outside of the fasteners with respect to the case, the fixing members being located near

an outer edge of the general portion, the fixing members being arranged on the left-right direction end side of the general portion.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 19, wherein each of the fixing members is ~~hook-like~~hook-shaped, and each ~~hook-like~~hook-shaped fixing member is fitted in a mounting hole formed in the panel, such that each ~~hook-like~~hook-shaped fixing member engages the panel.

22. (Withdrawn) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 19, wherein each of the fixing members is a mounting leg, which is deformed and retained by a mounting hole formed in the panel.

23. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 19, wherein the panel is a lower panel of an instrument panel.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Withdrawn) A knee protecting airbag device for a vehicle, wherein the vehicle has a passenger compartment and a knee-panel, which is located at the front of the passenger compartment approximately at the knee-level of a seated passenger, and wherein the airbag device comprises:

a folded airbag;

a case that houses the airbag, wherein the case has an opening;

an airbag cover, wherein the airbag cover includes:

a door, wherein the door covers the opening of the case; and

a general portion, which is located around the door;

fasteners for attaching the airbag cover to the case, wherein the fasteners are constructed to permit the airbag cover to move slightly with respect to the case; and

fixing members that fix the airbag cover to the knee-panel.

27. (Withdrawn) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 26, wherein the fixing members are located near an outer edge of the general portion.

28. (Withdrawn) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 26, wherein each of the fixing members is hook-like, and each hook-like fixing member is fitted in a mounting hole formed in the knee-panel, such that each hook-like fixing member engages the knee-panel.

29. (Withdrawn) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 26, wherein each of the fixing members is a mounting leg, which is deformed and retained by a mounting hole formed in the knee-panel.

30. (Withdrawn) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 26, wherein each of the fixing members is located outside of the fasteners, with respect to the case.

31. (Withdrawn) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 30, wherein the fixing members are located near an outer edge of the general portion.

32. (Currently amended) A knee protecting airbag device for a vehicle, wherein the vehicle has a front end, a rear end, a passenger compartment, and a panel located at the front end of the passenger compartment, and the airbag device comprises:

a folded airbag;

an inflator for feeding inflating gas to said airbag; and

a case that houses said airbag and said inflator and is located in front of a seated passenger, the case being formed in a rectangular box shape;

an airbag cover, wherein the airbag cover includes:

a door, wherein the door covers the opening of the case, and wherein the opening opens in a rectangular shape arranged in a longitudinal direction along the left-right direction, the door opening along the upper-lower direction; and

a general portion, which is located around the door;

a breakaway portion arranged around the door, the breakaway portion being broken to open the door when the airbag is expanded;

fasteners for attaching the airbag cover to the case, the fasteners being arranged on the upper and lower peripheries of the opening along the left-right direction, wherein the fasteners are constructed to permit the airbag cover to move slightly with respect to the case; and

fixing members that fix the airbag cover to the panel, each of the fixing members being located outside of the fasteners with respect to the case, the fixing members being located near an outer edge of the general portion, the fixing members being arranged on the left-right direction end side of the general portion.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 32, wherein each of the fixing members is ~~hook-like~~hook-shaped, and each ~~hook-like~~hook-shaped fixing member is fitted in a mounting hole formed in the panel, such that each ~~hook-like~~hook-shaped fixing member engages the panel.

35. (Withdrawn) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 32, wherein each of the fixing members is a mounting leg, which is deformed and retained by a mounting hole formed in the panel.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 32, wherein the panel is a lower panel of an instrument panel.

39. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 32, wherein the panel is a knee-panel, which is located approximately at the knee level of a passenger seated in the passenger compartment.